

COUNTY NEWS



PUBLISHED FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

July 2002

Ethics Enforcers

County's OIA



Investigates

& Educates

"Basically, the County is ethical and legal," said Eloy Villa—and he should know. Villa heads the County's four-person Office of Internal Affairs.

But for the very few who overstep the bounds, that's where his office comes into play. OIA is charged with investigating complaints of discrimination and allegations of improper conduct by County employees.

"I see my role as the mitigation of risk," Villa explained. "We address issues as quickly as possible, and make people feel that we're listening and they're not being ignored...regardless of how small the problem may be."

His department's approach has worked well for the County since it came into being almost five years ago. There are relatively few formal complaints—100 a year in an organization with more than 17,000 employees. The office has been an investigative arm, a sounding board and a resource

for employees to go to when they have questions.

"I will always defer to the department to try and solve the problem first," Villa said. "You need to give them the opportunity to clean it up."

Every County employee signs an ethical and legal standards statement when they start working for the County. Its spells out the guidelines about what employees should and should not do.

"I think ethics is very common sense," Villa said. "We understand right from wrong. More importantly, it's about what [County employees] ignore. I think that's what bothers me most."

Villa often finds that discrimination and misconduct claims aren't reported by a co-worker until it affects them directly. That's one of the reasons Villa and his staff also educate employees about what's expected of them.

"All of us have a role in ethical leadership in the County of San Diego," Villa said.

Volunteer Chaplain Ministers to Medical Examiner Staff

Joe Davis works long hours, sees some pretty gruesome things, and he doesn't get paid a penny. But sit down with him for five minutes and you can't miss the fact that he loves his job.

"I have the honor and privilege of being somewhere where the need is never going to be greater, so the opportunity to help is never going to be greater," Davis said.

Davis, who owns his own business, spends two days a week working as a volunteer chaplain with the Medical Examiner's Office. He'll start as early as 6 a.m. and often doesn't get home until midnight. Since November 2000, he's logged about 1,500 hours. He's not there to preach to the staff, he's just there to care for them.

"Let me tell you what my agenda is: absolutely nothing," Davis said. "I am here as a spiritual care provider, where my two functions are to love the people and to serve the people. Whatever I can do within those boundaries for the staff here at the Medical Examiner's Office is what I'll do."

While volunteer chaplains are commonplace among law enforcement agencies, the program is still fairly new at the ME's Of-

fice. Davis helped get it off the ground.

One of the first steps was gaining the trust and respect of the staff members. At a meeting with staff members, Davis remembers a 30-plus year County employee asking, "Are you going to be here?" When



Volunteer chaplain Joe Davis has become a trusted confidant within the ME's office.

asked what she meant, she said, "Nobody was here for the PSA crash, and nobody was here for us in the McDonald's massacre, and nobody was here for us for Heaven's Gate. Are you going to be around?"

Davis pledged to do just that, and he has. Not only is he there for staff to talk to around the office, he accompanies investigators to death scenes and notification visits. When he's dealing with the families whose loved ones have died, he likens his work to a trauma unit.

"This is not the time to talk about the healing process," Davis said. "This is the time to get you through this horrible time and just come to the realization that what has happened has happened."

Davis cherishes the fact that his role is voluntary. It lends credibility to the fact that he's there because he cares, and it gives him the freedom to care for the staff as he sees fit.

"When you walk away from the situation—either in the office here or a family on scene where they're devastated," Davis said, "when you walk away and go home, you know that because you were there, it was just a little bit better for them. There's nothing better in the world than that."

Based on the success in the Medical Examiner's Office, there are other County

(continued on page 4)

NewsBriefs

Open Enrollment Around the Corner

The time of year to make changes to your benefit elections is almost here! This year, open enrollment will be held from August 5 through 25. OPTIONS open enrollment information, including your personal worksheet, will be mailed to your home address the week of July 22. Please check the address on your most recent paycheck and contact your departmental payroll clerk if an update is needed. There will be several benefit changes, so make sure to review all information thoroughly.

CTN Outpaces Competition

At a regional awards ceremony for government access television, County Television Network (CTN) received five first place awards for its programming—more first place awards than any other government access channel in the competition. The States of California & Nevada chapter of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors presented CTN with its annual First Place Star Awards for: Update San Diego: Otay Valley Regional Park, Crime Lab, San Pasqual Academy Opening, and Backstage at the San Diego Opera.

The Star Awards are the government television equivalent to the local Emmy Awards.

Revenue & Recovery Recognized

The County's office of Revenue and Recovery, was featured in a recent issue of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) publication, *Ideas in Action: A Guide to Local Government Innovation*. The office was recognized for using its expertise to help National City collect payment on some of its overdue, closed sewer accounts.

Easy Reading

Seven County Library branches installed new Video Eye equipment for low vision customers. The Video Eye provides magnification ranges of 25, 50 and 100 times actual size to make reading easy. The new equipment is at the La Mesa, Poway, Rancho San Diego, San Marcos, Vista and El Cajon branches.

SDCLA Awarded for School Partnership

The San Diego County Latino Association received a 10-year Partnership in Education Award from San Diego City Schools for its involvement with Washington Elementary School. Every year the Association holds toy drives for the school and presents the toys to the neediest of children right before Christmas break. The actions of the SDCLA prompted

(continued on page 3)



In *Walt's* Words

Congratulations, Now Let's Get to Work!

You've all done great work over the past year, and we've got a lot to show for it. From opening a new animal shelter to the creation of a residential-educational complex for foster youth, you've shown again that the County of San Diego is a leader in local government.

With the end of our fiscal year on June 30, we're starting a new year, and with it, a new list of goals. I know you are up to the challenge.

First, I'd like to review some of our accomplishments from the 2001-2002 fiscal year, which just ended.

I was thrilled to attend the opening of our new animal shelter, which will be part of a vital partnership with the San Diego Humane Society to improve the care of animals and reduce the need for euthanasia.

The County's foster teens finally have a place they can call home, and where they can receive a quality education, just like other high school students. These teens have been moved dozens of times, and their outlook for a successful future was limited. San Pasqual changed all that. The proof is already at hand—recently the academy's first three graduates received their diplomas.

Last year, we opened the Rancho San Diego branch library, created a new County Department of Child Support Services, led the region on protecting our water and securitized our tobacco settlement funding, meaning the County will receive a steady stream of funding for health care programs long into the future, independent of the fortunes of the tobacco industry. We also continued our energy saving ways, beefed up preparedness to deal with terrorist attacks and created a public authority for In-Home Supportive Services.

With all that under our belt, what's in store for this year? Plenty. Our priorities include improving outcomes for kids, protecting and preserving our environment and maintaining safe, livable communities.

In the next year, we'll continue enrolling children in health plans, and also focus on such issues as child obesity and asthma.

Our budget will provide strong support for the Multiple Species Conservation Program and Project Clean Water, while continuing to build new parks and ballfields.

We will safeguard our community by continuing the training of emergency workers such as police, firefighters and paramedics to handle any type of disaster, from an earthquake or major fire to a terrorist attack. And we'll partner with the FBI and other agencies in the Joint Terrorism Task Force and the San Diego Terrorist Early Warning Group.

Well, that's our plan at least. Obviously we must still wait and see what damage the state's budget crisis will do to us and what impact it will have on the people we serve. But with the leadership and vision of the Board of Supervisors and your hard work—and if the State gets its act together and doesn't balance its deficit on the back of local government—we can accomplish all this and more. Again, thanks for all you have done over the past year, and let's have an equally successful FY 2002-03.

Walt Ekard
Chief Administrative Officer

NewsBriefs

(continued from page 2)

other organization to do the same, and last year every needy child in the school received a gift.

SDCLA is open to all County employees, and offers networking opportunities through mentoring and training and seeks access to promotional possibilities through participation in County government. To learn more about the San Diego County Latino Association, visit their Web site at www.sdcla.com.

Batter Up!

DIBBS is at it again! The Do It Better By Suggestion program has another great deal for County employees. It's "County of San Diego Day" at

Qualcomm Stadium on Aug. 4 when the Cincinnati Reds take on our San Diego Padres, and County employees can go to the ballpark for a reduced price. Look for your coupon with your July 19 paycheck.

Las Vegas Excursion

The San Diego County Latino Association is sponsoring a Las Vegas trip July 26-28. That's three days and two nights at the Four Queens Hotel and Casino. Cost for this trip is \$90 and includes hotel, double occupancy, and transportation to Vegas and back. Reserve your spot for \$30. Contact Joaquin Gracida (760) 940-6859 or Ricardo Cunningham (619) 685-2487.

(See "County News Extra" in the online version for more County-related news.)

Environmental Health Department Continues to Develop Environmental Caretakers of Tomorrow

Without a doubt, career development is a high priority at Environmental Health. The department has a career ladder to give clerical staff the opportunity to transition into a technician position, and it "grows" future workers with its student intern program.

"Environmental Health staff are our greatest resource," said director Gary Erbeck. "We put in a tremendous effort to nurture career development and to turn students on to the personal satisfaction of protecting environmental and public health."

The department has gained statewide and national recognition for its success. Environmental Health Specialist Michelle Price is the latest example of the results the department obtains.

As a geology major at Southwestern College in 1995, Price took an environmental technology class when her father urged that his "hug a tree, dolphin lover" daughter might like it.

"When I took the class, it just felt

natural," Price said. "It just clicked." Price said she was drawn to the idea of protecting the environment and protecting her community.

She volunteered with Hazardous Materials Division of Environmental Health four hours a week for six months until a student worker position opened up.

"It was nice that the things that I saw in the classroom, I always related it back to work," Price said. She relentlessly plugged away through her community college classes, then transferred to California State University at Northridge to complete her bachelor's degree.

Even though she was in Los Angeles, she continued on with the department as a student worker during her breaks.

After a lot of hard work, Price graduated this past December, and worked as a temporary employee in DEH until a full time position was available.

"I was hoping this was where I would be," Price said.



Michelle Price

Ver•ba•tim

Letters from satisfied customers served by County employees.

Annamarie Iraci (HHSA, Public Health Nurse) was praised for going out of her way to get the information a client wanted.

"She always followed up on my questions that she did not have immediate answers for and was very pleasant. She even called to wish us well after we moved."

Barbara Wojtach (HHSA, Adoptions) received the gratitude of a woman she guided through the adoption process.

"Barbara's assistance has been outstanding in quality representing me during the past two years. She has continually displayed the utmost of sincerity and understanding in her support of my adoption goals."

Jose Cruz (Treasurer-Tax Collector) was recognized for helping a client during a difficult time.

"I did not expect to have such personal service. I cannot tell you how much I appreciated Jose's positive attitude and help."

David Sibbet (Planning and Land Use) was praised for being a hard working, fair and diligent employee.

"It would have been easy for David to not return my calls immediately or respond to my submittals in a timely manner...But he did neither of these and continued to be responsive until the very end."

Linda Hughes and JJ Anderson (Public Defender) were praised for the assistance they extended to a couple dealing with substance abuse problems.

"Not only have Linda and JJ followed up on this case, but they both on their own time have called and gave us both support. Through the talks we had with them, they have inspired me and my wife's lives. I will never forget what they have done and how they have had an impact on our lives to become a part of a sober society."

Perla Eusebio (Auditor & Controller) was acknowledged for her hard work and prompt assistance.

"She is extremely cooperative and always ready to do a bit extra to assist us. She remains cheerful and polite, even during levy season when she is committed to deadlines."

Joe Harteis (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was extended gratitude for his time and consideration in correcting an error for a customer.

"He is a definite asset to the public. He was courteous, prompt and thorough."

(Check out the Intranet version of County News for a special "Verbatim Extra" section.)

NewsMakersNewsMakers

J. Dennis Piper was named the County's new Chief Technology Officer. His duties will include oversight of the information technology outsourcing contract with the Pennant Alliance. Piper comes to the County from Houston, Texas, where he was the city's chief information officer. In that position, he launched the city's non-emergency 3-1-1 system, which allows citizens to contact city government over the Internet regarding a wide variety of topics.

Henry "Hank" Filar was appointed manager of the Risk Management division of the Department of Human Resources. Filar comes to the County from the City of Escondido, where he was the Risk Manager for six years. His division is responsible for

worker's compensation, medical standards, property and casualty insurance and loss prevention.

Jackie Werth, Strategy and Planning Division of HHSA, received the Distinguished Service Award by the local chapter of the American Society for Public Administration. Her performance management/balanced scorecard leadership, as well as her commitment to public service, were acknowledged.

Diane Bardsley, Miriam Brewster, and Deborah McCarthy, of County Counsel, recently received 2002 County Counsels' Association Recognition Awards. The awards are given annually to county counsel attorneys throughout the state who have demonstrated extraordinary service benefiting counties statewide.

Chaplain (continued from page 1)

programs looking to bring on their own volunteer chaplains. Within the office of the Public Administrator/Public Guardian, staff also deal with death and grieving family members, as well as victims of elder abuse. The office wants to use volunteer chaplains as a tool to provide employees the support and encouragement they need in gaining perspective on troubling problems. Child Protective Services, whose staff deals with highly charged emotional issues, hopes to use volunteer chaplains to provide support services to social work staff and foster parents, as well as to train social workers to be peer counselors in times of crisis.

County News is published for the 17,000 employees of the County of San Diego.

Board of Supervisors

Greg Cox, District 1
Dianne Jacob, District 2
Pam Slater, District 3
Ron Roberts, District 4
Bill Horn, District 5

Chief Administrative Officer

Walter F. Ekard

This information is available upon request in alternative formats for persons with disabilities.



EDITORIAL STAFF

Rene Quaresma, Editor

County News is available online at www.co.san-diego.ca.us/dmpr (click on "News Center") or via the County's Intranet at cww/mpr

To contact County News:
Phone: (619) 595-4632
Fax: (619) 595-4664
E-mail: rcarmich@co.san-diego.ca.us
Mail: MS A-359
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 208
San Diego, CA 92101

Volume 24, No. 7 July 2002

READER SURVEY

County News wants your vote on how we're doing. Please cut out or photocopy the survey, fill out and mail to **County News, MS A-359** or fax to **(619) 685-2469**.

How often do you read County News?

Frequently Sometimes Never

What columns do you regularly read?

	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
NewsBriefs			
In Walt's Words			
The Supervisor's View			
Verbatim			
NewsMakers			

How do you rate the amount of coverage County News provides of the following?

	Not enough	Sufficient	Too much
Upcoming County events			
Employee features			
Dept/staff accomplishments			
County programs/services			
New Board policies/management initiatives			

What types of articles would you like to see included in future issues of County News?

Rate the strength of County News in the following areas (5 = "does an excellent job," 1 = "needs improvement")

	1	2	3	4	5
Keeps me informed about people, issues and events					
Provides accurate and timely information					
Is generally a well-written publication					
Overall layout and design					

Other comments....

COUNTY NEWS *Extra*

Service Awards

Congratulations to County employees reaching the following milestones in July:

35 years

Judith A. Paza-Jeffery (Housing & Community Development)

30 years

Ronald E. Barry (Sheriff)
Rolando Q. Bondoc (HHSA)
Paula A. Cavagnaro (HHSA)
Susan M. Goodloe (HHSA)
Conrad A. Grayson (Sheriff)
Anna M. Guerrero (HHSA)
Anthony Lovett (District Attorney)
Joe H. Maes (Sheriff)
Carla Jane Mann (General Services)
Karen E. May (HHSA)
Sylvia A. Penunuri (HHSA)
David Piner (General Services)
Maxine R. Quinn (HHSA)

25 years

Ariana Almajan (Land Use & Environment Group)
William R. Bailey (HHSA)
Phillip A. Battaglia (Probation)
Ernestine C. Bentley (District Attorney)
Kenneth J. Brazell (Public Works)
Loretta R. Calfee (Probation)
Cesar M. Diosdado (Sheriff)
Lawrence R. Garrett (Sheriff)
Adelia A. Harrington (County Library)
William F. Holland (Sheriff)
Darlene A. Mitchell (Superior Court)
Charles C. Nakamura (Sheriff)
Lynne S. Pierce (Sheriff)
Harshal P. Salway (Public Works)

Nicol P. Saraceni (District Attorney)
Karen L. Sears (Sheriff)
Benjamin Sevilla (HHSA)
Douglas J. Shinebarger (Sheriff)
Virginia E. Uyeno-Bridy (HHSA)
Gloria E. Verduzco (HHSA)
Thomas M. Vissers (Superior Court)

20 years

John M. Cherry (Sheriff)
Claudia S. Dess (County Library)
Kerry Wells Hamor (District Attorney)
Diane A. Kendall (Sheriff)
Patricia E. Lux (Superior Court)
Rosemarie Neth (Sheriff)
John A. Pokorny (Sheriff)
Frank T. Winter (Sheriff)

In Memoriam

The San Diego County Employees Retirement Association reports that the following retired employees recently passed away:

Janet Balch (Superior Court)	5/9	Merlyn M. Mackey (Education)	5/28
Neva M. Barr (Library)	5/15	Glenda L. Miller (Social Services)	5/12
Arthur Beall (Probation)	4/1	Alice Munnings (Welfare)	5/4
Stanley Blackwell (Superior Court)	5/6	Margaret Norman (Sheriff)	5/3
Millicent Buckner (District Attorney)	4/16	Grace E. Noyes (Municipal Court)	3/30
Laurie Earlywine (HHSA)	5/12	Albert Penington (Welfare)	5/22
Margaret Glawgow (Hospital)	5/20	George St. George (Medical Examiner)	5/24
George Groezinger (Building Inspection)	5/22	Walter R. Tasker (Welfare)	5/9
Etta Linton (Social Services)	4/9		

Our thoughts and prayers are with the friends and families of active employees Kurt F. Berner, District Attorney (4/8); Yolanda Esmedina, Sheriff (3/25); and Ana G. Estrada, Sheriff (9/23).

County News Extra includes expanded information about and for County employees. If you have something you'd like considered for either *County News* or *County News Extra*, please contact the newsletter editor at (619) 595-4632 or e-mail at rcarmich@co.san-diego.ca.us. Items can also be faxed to (619) 595-4664 or mailed to MS A-359, Attn: *County News*.

Retirements

The San Diego County Employees Retirement Association reports the following employees recently retired:

Izis R. Abdelsayed
Douglas A. Aebischer
Alphonso X. Agraz
Dolores Alexander
Kathleen B. Allen
Gary M. Alschbach
Ana Gloria Barnett
Bruce T. Barton
Dorina A. Bautista
Charlonna N. Beach
Patricia L. Beatty
Kathryn L. Belmonte
Andrea E. Belsky
Phyllis C. Bernstein
Frank R. Bird
Barbara Judith Black
Joyce L. Black
Prudence Blair
Charlotte Bluestein
Roger E. Bohren
Johnny W. Boulden
Charles R. Braddy
Jeffrey Bristow
Herbert D. Brown
Thomas E. Bunkley
Babette Burgess
Darlene Burns-Wilcox
Fred G. Byerlee
Patricia J. Cable
Kathleen Calsadillas
Elaine S. Campbell
Elaine B. Cantrell
Yvonne A. Carey
Geraldine Carmack
Stella E. Carrillo
Sandra Carter
Manuel Castillo
William K. Chatham
Doreen S. Christensen
Harold J. Cohn
Sharon L. Colton
Claudia J. Conaway
Pamela C. Conlin
Donald J. Continelli
Larry J. Cook
Fern-Marie Crawford
Josefina Cruces
Rodolfo Cruz
Douglas B. Curtis
Frances E. Damian
Katie G. Darland
Paula L. Darland
Joseph D. Davis

Dianne M. Day
Margaret O. Delano
Beth N. Dickie
Linda L. Dittloff
Albert J. Dobrick
Elaine K. Dodson
Janet Donnelly-Mauck
Natoa Dorn
Beverly A. Doyle
Brian R. Duncan
Richard M. Engleman
Antonio V. Esquivel
Jeanne A. Ewing
Estela V. Faltriguera
Ralph J. Fear
Mary L. Fermentat
Kathy A. Fields
Sharon E. Fischer
James R. Fogacci
Elizabeth Foster
Dolores T. Fuller
Marijo Gaeta
William P. Gage, Jr.
Stephen C. Gallagher
Rebecca B. Gardner
Frances I. Gesiakowski
Nicolasa Gill
Martin B. Goetschel, Jr.
Ignacio Gomez
Anju Lee Gonzales
Connie L. Govier
Richard W. Graff
Williamay E. Graham
Timothy J. Gray
Kathleen M. Greco
Irma J. Green
James R. Griego
Charles R. Grisby
Robert Guajardo
Dorothea T. Hallowell
Patrick K. Halvorsen
Noreen V. Harmon
Sharon C. Harrington
Erika D. Harris
Carol Hartman
Betty Jean Haskell
Carl L. Havner
Beverly Hawkins
Estelle Charbonneau
Hawkins
Barbara M. Hayden
Regina M. Henderson
D.F. Hermanson

Michio Himaka
Mary F. Hlawatsch
Linda K. Hodges
Irene L. Hogate
Michael L. Hogate
Carole L. Howard
Maria Del Carmen Jacobo
Eric G. Jacobson
Beth M. Jensen
Beverly A. Jensen
Brenda Johnson
Maryann Johnson
Mary R. Kaonis
Mary L. Kendricks
Judy W. Kennedy
Rita F. Kershaw
Horace A. Ketcham III
Janeen Kilpatrick
Paul B. Kimball
Aline N. King
Myron A. Klippert
Lora D. Krall
Carolyn Kulinski
Doris I. Kuykendall
Ray R. Lafleur
Inocencio M. Lasam, Jr.
Marilyn J. Lastrape
Diana N. Levarado
Christina Yolanda Levy
Carolyn L. Lewinski
Florence L. Li
Bruce Littlejohn
Eleanor H. Lopez
Robin G. Low
June C. Lynch
Donald J. MacNeil
Audrey Jean Male
Steven C. Mann
Marceil Marsh
Deborah S. Marshall
Leroy Martin
Patricia Martin
Bertha O. Martinez
Olivia Martinez
Joseph T. Mattie
Tomas M. Mbomio
Richard D. McCraig
Kenneth H. McCallister
James B. McClelland
Colleen A. McCreary
Patricia A. McGinn
Margueret McKinney
Patrick R. McKinney

Donna McLeod
Dorine A. Meade
Verna J. Meloche
Dean P. Metzner
Martha S. Meurer
Felicidad Miana
Walter L. Mile
Corinne Wong Miller
John A. Miller
Quionia P. Mirano
Luis I. Misa
Robert J. Modell
Guillermo Monje
Penelope F. Moore
Eleanor M. Moreau
Reneene Mowry
Ann M. Moynahan
Eleanor C. Muller
Robin L. Neece
Mary E. Newbert
Melinda A. Newman
Hai Nguyen
Marie Nguyen
Rose Nichols
Mary J. Nicola
Elsa L. Norbeck
Julita E. Norita
Joanne M. Nowak
Ardist J. Olds
Maria C. Osias
Patricia A. Oxley
Micaela Pacheco
Hope H. Page
Mary Louise Palmore
Lucille Paredes
Joseph Patton
Thomas E. Pautler
Russell H. Paxton
Marie I. Petrykowski
Hermelinda Petty
Chi Kim Pham
Willam N. Pierce
David Piner
Emily M. Piner
Edmund M. Pollock
Flor Pratl
David J. Price
John Przywara
Arturo C. Quinez
James A. Radice
Mary M. Rattray
Conway H. Redding

(continued on next page)

Retirements (continued)

Mark Thomas Reising
Rizalinda L. Reyes
Sari R. Reznick
Stanley L. Riggan
Fe R. Rivero
Rena Robinson
Raymond Rodriguez
Janet M. Rogers
Amanda E. Roth
Lynn B. Rowland
Daniel O. Ruiz, Jr.
Julius G. Ryan
Marilyn K. Ryan
Esperanza Sarmiento
Nancy Sawicki
D. Kathryn Scavarda
Edward M. Schadeck
Eva Schindler
Rosemarie Schmidt

Barbara J. Scott
Joanna K. Senters
Jimmy R. Sims
Judith R. Sinkovec
Lucy G. Skatzes
Charles T. Smallenberger, Jr.
Barbara L. Smith
David J. Smith
Marcia H. Smith
Nancy Sommerville
Richard J. Sommerville
Michael R. Specht
Patsy L. Spoon
Lee S. Staley
Maria G. Stawarz
Walter C. Steffen, Jr.
Jean D. Stein
Gary O. Stockton
Dorothy K. Stout

Nancy J. Strong
Patricia A. Stuart
Sofronio P. Sumibcay
Dolores A. Swanegan
Consolacion Sy
Chaohui Takahashi
Garry D. Talbot
Lolita Tamayo
Susan L. Taylor
Jacqueline A. Trost
Inocenia Tuazon-Licuanan
Barbara L. Turner
George P. Vasquez
Victoria Velasco
Sara H. Vickers
Mona M. Villa
Lance W. Vollmer
Thu T. Vu
Carole C. Wallace

Virginia D. Walton
Rex M. Warburton
Kathryn A. Watson
Julie J. Webster
Michael Webster
Barbara J. Welden
Renee Weston
William W. Whited
Catherine Whitmore
Larry A. Wickstrom
Lora J. Wilson
Frank T. Winter
Lilia F. Wood
Susan Woodburn
Susan Woodworth
Susan Wurtzel
Ramon Ymzon
Lynne A. Young

Extra NewsMakers!

Lynne Christenson, County Parks and Recreation Historian, was recently appointed chair of the San Diego Historical Resources Board. This volunteer board evaluates the significance of historic resources within the City of San Diego. Christenson has been a member of the board for seven years.

Amy Applebaum, Office of AIDS Coordination, received the 2002 Award for Outstanding Achievement in Affordable Housing

and Community Development as an HIV/AIDS Housing Advocate. Applebaum provides services to HIV-positive clients through a unique component of the County's AIDS case management program that focuses on facilitating access for homeless ex-offenders and other high-risk persons with substance abuse problems into residential treatment programs and sober living environments.

[Ver•ba•tim] *extra*

Agriculture, Weights and Measures staff on the "Ag 20" project were thanked by County Counsel for the long hours they spent in the field collecting information critical to the project.

"Your long hours of work, sacrifice, commitment and dedication to getting this right are acknowledged and very much appreciated."

Rita Marks-Prince (HHSA, Eligibility Technician) was commended by a group of public health nurses for consistently making herself available to share information among coworkers and providing assistance to better serve clients.

"Rita strives to maintain a pleasant and productive work environment and her success benefits all workers. Rita is the epitome of what a public servant should be!"

Elizabeth Tamez (Assesor/Recorder/Clerk) was thanked by a couple she married for her kindness.

"Your patience and consideration made our day one we'll always remember."

Tracey Carter (Treasurer/Tax Collector) received the following customer compliment via her manager.

"He said that he did not anticipate the friendly and courteous service you provided him...I sincerely appreciate and thank you for the consistently high level of great customer service you extend to the taxpayers of this County."

Lorne Dumo (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was commended for helping a woman get the information she needed quickly.

"I can't tell you how much I appreciate the help, because I had to hire a babysitter for my two small children just to come and get the information. Without Lorne's help there is no way I would have attained all the information in time!"

Doris Vasquez (HHSA, Eligibility Technician) was recognized for being very helpful and polite.

"In my experience with other offices, she is by far the best in San Diego."

Extra NewsBriefs!

Kings of the Court

The Los Angeles Lakers just won their third straight NBA championship, and thanks to DIBBS, County employees have a chance to see them in action this fall. The Lakers take on the Cleveland Cavaliers in a special pre-season game at the San Diego Sports Arena on Oct. 22 and County employees are invited to take in the game for a discount. Check out the DIBBS flier in a work area near you or give the DIBBS office a call at (619) 578-5781.

Ribbon Cutting Celebrates Remodel

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in June at the County Library's Fletcher Hills Branch to celebrate the completion of its five-month remodel. In addition to a fresh coat of paint, physical access for the handicapped was improved throughout the entire library, and the layout was redesigned for better access to services and to use the space more efficiently.

Lawyers for Literacy

The District Attorney's office announced a \$250,000 contribution to the Juvenile Literacy Project, a joint venture that includes the DA's office, as well as Probation, Juvenile Court and the County Office of Education. The new program is aimed at helping juvenile offenders improve their reading skills and will reach approxi-

mately 300 teenagers a year. The DA's contribution to the Juvenile Literacy Project came from asset forfeiture funds—money recovered from convicted criminals. The project's tentative start date is Aug. 26.

Adobe Adored

The County's own Rancho Guajome Adobe was featured in the June issue of Sunset magazine as part of a story on North County adobes. A state and national landmark, Rancho Guajaome is part of Guajome County Park and is touted as California's finest example of Anglo-Hispanic domestic architecture.

Community Enhancement

The Center for Community Economic Development at San Diego State University is currently recruiting students for its next certificate program, which begins Sept. 7. The eight-month program is designed to provide students with an understanding of business and economic concepts and how to apply them to the development of neighborhoods and communities. Classes are held two Saturdays each month; two Monday evening seminars are also required. County employees interested in professional development in this area can obtain more information by calling SDSU at (619) 594-0435.

To Russia, With Love

Across the Pacific Ocean is where Rene Markley spent her last vacation, but it wasn't on an exotic island. It was helping refurbish rooms at a children's center in Vladivostok, Russia.

A 26-year County employee, Markley is a supervising investigator with the Public Defender's office. She traveled with a team of nine people from the Foothills Methodist Church in La Mesa, which has sent volunteers on a humanitarian mission to San Diego's sister city twice yearly for the past four years.

During their two-week stay the group helped with repairs at the children's center, a state-funded facility that houses homeless children ages 7 to 14. They also were treated to a program put on by the children and cultural events planned by their host, the Russian Peace Foundation. Markley even had the opportunity to meet with a woman lawyer in Vladivostok to learn more about the country's legal system.

While she gave of her time, Markley says she came back with "an appreciation for the warmth and the generosity of the people. They were just so giving, so appreciative of what we gave. And they gave so much in return."



Rene Markley (seated, right) takes time out from her humanitarian mission to visit a Russian law office and learn about the country's legal system.